RG56 Entry289 Box 4 88

88 Report

88

Mr. Tyler

to

Mr. Bradford.

April 16. 1839

filed by Mr. Tyler

T. S

Coinery Office

New Orleans Br. Mint

New Orleans April 16th 1839

Sir

In reply to your request of the 13th ultimo that I report to you at my earliest convenience &c. I have the honor to submit the following.

From the date of your request it would seem that an earlier reply might have been required of me, but from a mistaken understanding between us, and a desire to bring into my report matters which have but just transpired, I was led to believe that the delay would be excusable, particularly as you are aware that my time is nearly all devoted to the management of the operations of my department and to increasing the facilities therefor — Since my report of the 31st of July last (which was the time of suspending our operations for the season) there has been coined at this Br. Mint 411,000 pieces in Dimes 350,000 pieces in ½ Dimes and 80,000 pieces in half Dollars, making since the resumption 841,000 pieces, which added to 406,000 pieces previously struck in Dimes, ~~& ½ Dimes~~ amounts to 1,247,000 pieces — No other denominations of coin have as yet been struck, owing to the great demand upon us for the Dimes & half Dimes.

During the summer recess of last year, the greater part of the workmen employed by me were discharged (generally at a small advance of wages) and all vacancies filled

ready for the resumption of business in the fall —

Since resuming our operations two of my workmen have left, and one of the vacancies has been filled with a suitable person at the lowest rate of wages, and the other I purpose supplying in the same manner in order to avoid all unnecessary expense for wages.

One of my Annealing furnaces remains unfinished, owing to the sudden death of the principal workman who was engaged upon it, at a time when it was less inconvenient than now to have that work going on — But the one we have is sufficient for present use — The Milling Machine for half dollars has been started and found to answer tolerably well, but owing to the weakness of the stand (or frame) it was found necessary to pass the planchets twice through — The cutting presses, the Draw Benches the Rolls, and indeed all the Machinery in the Cutting Milling and Rolling Rooms, continue in good working condition, with the exception of occasional accidents and the wear to which all Machinery is liable — The single Coining Press has struck over a million of pieces without any serious accident, but at length an accident has occured, such as I have been in constant apprehension of, which has considerably damaged the Press — I have anticipated in some degree the effects of such shocks in the large press by detaching the fly wheel and connecting it to its shaft only with a friction coupling — This arrangement prevents the strain upon the shaft from ever exceeding the

the ordinary working there — The Large Preps continues to operate in a very satisfactory manner so far as regards the general application, but I believe it will be found expedient hereafter at a convenient time to make considerable alterations in some of the details in order to render its operations as effective and certain as is desirable ——

Among the more obvious amendments in ti-
-fling matters, connected with the machinery, is that of preventing the unpleasant noise of the connections between the Rolls and their driving ~~gear~~ wheels — This is ef-
-fected by means of a wooden support, under the middle of the lower connecting bar; which keeps it from falling and then by introducing a spring support, for the upper one, between them — The spring is necessary to allow the upper Roll to rise and fall the required distance

Owing to the arduousness of my duties in the endeavour to supply the demand for small coins and to produce a quantity of half Dollars sufficient to pay off our dues to depositors, I have not yet been able to do anything to the middle size press, and not having any settled plan of proceeding in its completion it is impossible for me at the present time to state how long a time will be required in getting it to work I am anxious to ~~complete it~~ get it to work as soon as possible but from the number and nature of its defects it is necessary that I give it my undivided attention for a time before anything can be advantageously done upon it — The amendments should be thorough and complete, that its performance may be depended on

RG56 Entry289 Box 4 88

the small coining press works with tolerable certainty at the speed of one hundred pieces per minute, but on account of the irregularity of the motion of Steam Engine it is not thought safe to gear it at quite so high a speed — A seperate Engine for the Presses, seems to be the proper way of obtaining an equable motion, so that they may be safely run at the highest speed — I suggest therefore, that as soon as all the presses are in operation and all the arrangements and fixtures are complete, a small Engine be procured for that purpose — This plan has been found expedient in the Mint at Philadelphia —

The driving pulleys, &c. for the large Lathe and a line of shafting pulleys, &c. for the department of the Melter & Refiner are in progress and will soon be completed — I beg leave to remark in this place as the time is approaching when it may be expected of my department to execute promptly all orders, delivered over to me for that purpose, and in the manner best calculated to meet the views of yourself, the Director and the Government, in satisfying the wants of the public; I feel it my duty to request that in filling the vacancy of Weighing Clerk in the Treasurers Office you will consider the propriety of ~~[illegible]~~ securing the services of one who has the entire confidence of all parties concerned — Permit me to urge this request as a matter of ~~[illegible]~~ high importance to every Officer of the Mint, but more particularly to the Treasurer, the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner — From your disposition to afford every reasonable facility and security to the ~~depart-~~

Officers of departments, and to promote kind feeling among them, I cannot doubt of your willingness, to authorize the Treasurer to select his assistants with the advice and consent of the other Officers above named.

In regard to what has already been effected in my department, it may be proper here to state, that, had I looked only to the present, a larger amount of coinage might have been made; and I am fully aware of the importance to ourselves and to the institution of an early favourable impression, as well as of the necessitous demands of the community, but, I cannot resist the conviction that such a course would have been attended, ultimately, with disadvantages immensely greater than the temporary benefits, inasmuch as it would have tended to the adoption of an imperfect system, and half way measures which might even remain a dead weight to crippple our future success and usefulness — It will be found on reference to the Treasury books, that I delivered to him in the month of January 70,000 pieces, in Feb. 128,000, and in March 370,000 pieces in Dimes & ½ Dimes, and I have reason to believe, the result of the present months labour will show a continued progressive increase, in the effectiveness of the department under my direction — The large Coining Press being in now in successful operation will of course double the amount ~~in value~~ of coinage in value with the same amount of labour

Allow me to call your attention to the

RG56 Entry289 Box 4 88

to the subject of securing the Building against fire
and to suggest to you the propriety of procuring several
hand Engines (say 3 or 4) to be kept constantly filled
with water ready for immediate use, in different
parts of the Mint — One might be kept in the Loft
one in the Assayers; one in the Melters & Refiners
and one in the Comers' Rooms

Very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant

Philip Syng
Comer Br. Mint

To /
David Bradford Esqr
Superintendant